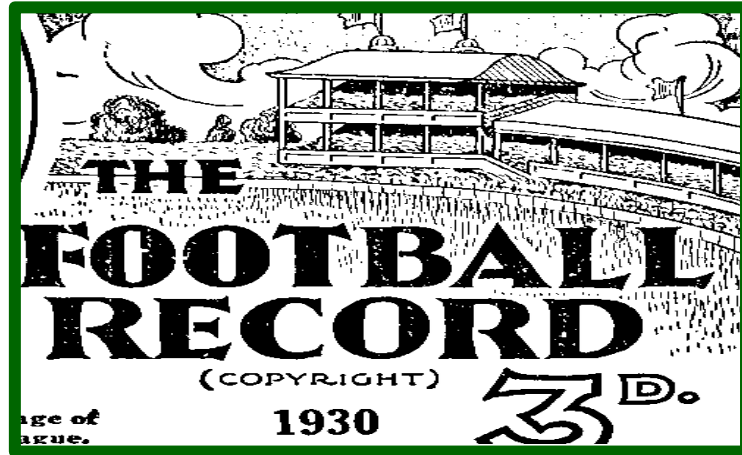


90 YEARS AGO A DEFINITIVE VICTORY

DROMANA V SEAFORD- 1930

Ref: 2020/8



BETWEEN THE WARS

The years between the two wars was a period of mixed fortunes for Dromana Football Club. Most football players know that success does not occur by accident but is generally the result of patience, persistence, planning and preparation. As Ron Barassi once said...

"The road to the top in anything, and particularly league football, is a rocky one. Plenty of people fail, but the only disgrace in failing is if you only half tried, or three quarters tried, or 99 per cent tried. "

While there were some rocky roads , in the journey to the top for Dromana in that era, 1930 was a year when:

- (i) Firm foundations were laid to propel the club forward.
- and
- (ii) A loyal and determined band of DFC players and officials reaped rewards for their unselfish labours.

In 1930, the Peninsula District Football Association was comprised of the following teams...Dromana, Naval Depot, Flinders, Frankston, Langwarrin, Mornington, Red Hill, Rosebud, Seaford and Tyabb.

The Annual General Meeting of the Peninsula District Football Association was held in early April; and that year the delegates meet at the Grand Hotel in Mornington.

The extract (below) is part of much longer press report, which was published in the 'Frankston and Somerville Standard' at that time.

As can be seen, George Osborne represented Dromana that evening; and Mr Peters from Langwarrin FC chaired meeting

PENINSULA DISTRICT ASSOCIATION.

Delegates Meeting.

The annual meeting of the Peninsula District Football Association was held on Tuesday evening at the Grand Hotel, Mornington. Ten clubs were represented.

Those present were:—Messrs. Peters and Bray (Langwarrin), Quartermain and Croucher (Frankston), Collins and Parsons (Mornington), Laurissen and Hunt (Red Hill), Moffitt and Wheatley (Seaford), Sheppard and Longmuir (Tyabb), Owen (Naval Depot), Hall and Benson (Flinders), Osborne (Dromana), Dunk and Goyen (Rosebud).

Mr. Peters was voted to the chair.

The minutes of the previous annual meeting were read and confirmed.

The secretary's report was then read and received. The balance-sheet was read as follows:—

Receipts:—To balance in bank at end of 1928, £10/12/7; registration fees, £8/8/-; good faith money, £10 16/; umpires' fees, £121/16/; gates, £31/2/-; protest, 10/. Total, £188 18/7.

Expenditure: — V.J.F.A. umpires, £91/16/6; V.J.F. Union, £1/1/6; printing, £4/5/5; Wilcox, £4/4/; pennant, £5/6; conveyance of umpires, £32/8/6; return, good faith money, £8/8/.



George Osborne

In 1930, M. Nolan was the captain of the club and other family names listed in match reports were:- P. Gleeson, Hewson, Farrel, Wilson, Skillen, Patterson, Singleton, Guy, Clydesdale, Griffiths, Rudduck, Mirabella, Gray, Evans, Birch and Langholtz. **Note:** A fact that is often overlooked in DFNC history is that Bert Aust played with Mornington FC that season but returned to DFC in 1931.

While researching this story, it was discovered that, during that era, the talent scouts from Hawthorn FC displayed considerable interest in Dromana's star defender, Peter Gleeson...

"...H. Johnson, the Sale follower; Luckins, a young Bairnsdale forward; and P. Gleeson, captain and half-back player, of Dromana have signed up with the Hawthorn club for the coming season."
'Weekly Times' January 23rd 1932 Page: 57.



Peter Gleeson – Dromana's star of the early 30's.

In 1930, the club had started the season with three victories from four outings; and the team travelled to Seaford for the Round: 5 match. The Dromana FC scribe, known as the 'Spectator', provided few details about the game itself; and his main comments focused on the poor standard of umpiring that day. His remarks about the umpire were harsh; and would have caused a deal of pandemonium 'around the traps.'

DROMANA SCORE AGAIN.
EASY WIN AT SEAFORD.

"Spectator" (Dromana) writes:—
Last Saturday the local footballers journeyed to Seaford and after a very enjoyable game ran out winners by over eight goals.
The game was inclined to be rough, caused through the very bad umpiring. The umpire did not seem to understand the new rules.
The whole team played well, but a few members stood out a little above the others, namely: W. Grey, Murphy, Nolan, J. Clydesdale, F. Grey, W. Evans, G. Rudduck, R. Birch and W. Patterson.
The only change in the team from the previous Saturday was that W. Patterson replaced D. Hewson.
Next Saturday the locals play Mornington Seconds on their own ground, when a large crowd is expected to witness this game.
A big number followed the team to Seaford on Saturday. At the present time football is booming at Dromana.

In terms of recording club history, the match review provided little insight into the game itself; and, as can be seen from the original press cutting, 'Spectator' didn't waste words in his report.

In his/her brief description of the game, it was simply stated that Dromana won by eight goals. There were no final scores or goal kickers provided but the best players were listed as: - W. Grey, Murphy, Nolan, Clydesdale, F. Gray, W. Evans G. Ruddick, R. Birch and W. Patterson.



M. Nolan – listed among the better players against Seaford.

With that victory, Dromana sat on the second rung of the ladder while Frankston held top position. The next match (Round: 6) for Dromana was against the highly fancied Mornington combine.


The cutting below (taken from the Frankston and Somerville Standard on Saturday 12th July 1930) shows that, after nine rounds that season, Dromana sat in second place on the ladder with six wins. Flinders, winless at the point of the year, was languishing at the bottom of the table. As local history confirms, fielding a football team at Flinders was always problematic; and, with the passage of time, the club went into recess.

DISTRICT ASSOCIATION				
POSITION OF CLUBS				
	P.	W.	L.	Pts
Frankston	9	7	2	28
Dromana	9	6	3	24
Rosebud	9	6	3	24
Mornington	9	5	4	20
Langwarrin	9	5	4	20
Tyabb	9	5	4	20
Red Hill	9	4	5	16
Seaford	8	2	6	8
Flinders	9	0	9	0

Things at Dromana FC must have been 'running like clockwork' that season as it was stated in the 'Frankston-Somerville Standard' (June 7th 1930) that...

" A big number of people followed the team to Seaford on Saturday. At the present time football is booming at Dromana."

Dromana's early promise that season was realized and the team participated in the final series. The following extract is part of the match report of the Semi Final. Frankston won that contest by a sizeable margin but DFC had shown great improvement across the season and had established itself as a competitive and talented unit.



**FRANKSTON WINS SEMI-FINAL
DROMANA FAILS IN LAST
QUARTER.**

Frankston 12—9 defeated Dromana 5—9 in the second semi-final of the Peninsula District Association on Frankston oval last Saturday. A good deal of interest was taken in the match by followers of the junior teams and but for the bitterly cold wind, good gate receipts would have resulted.

The most interesting features of the match were the smart play of Dromana in the first half of the match, the bright play of the youngsters of Frankston's team and the utter collapse of Dromana in the last quarter, in which that team failed to score, despite the fact that it had a deficit of two points only when the quarter opened.

Even when due allowance was made for Frankston's handicap of a strong, adverse wind in the first quarter, the play of this team was very unsatisfactory. The only bright points in the team's play were the fine dashes on the wing by Bentley, the good defence by Hanton and some attractive flashes by D. Quartermain. Dromana, on the other hand, was marking well and attacking vigorously though the shooting was poor, only three goals coming from 19 scoring shots.

With the first change Frankston supporters hoped for better things, but received a shock when Dromana opened with a smart attack which brought a well-deserved goal. Frankston began to realize the seriousness of the position and play improved a little and, assisted by the wind, added 2—4 during the quarter. Dromana still had a lead of eight points at the interval.

In the third quarter, Frankston's team work showed great improvement. Williams, Martin and Cameron came into prominence. Morris was having an off day and was fumbling badly in the centre while L. Legge was failing to hold his own. The youngsters played well toward the end of the quarter. A. Quartermain was particularly noticeable. J. Legge co-operated with him in several smart attacks. Neeson, though he blundered at times, did well. His play was cool and his kicking good.

The final change saw the collapse of Dromana to whom Frankston gave a clean sheet for the quarter. Webster's play was excellent throughout the quarter. The whole team seemed to strike form and, as Dromana tired, Frankston's score mounted rapidly. Lloyd was an outstanding player in the last quarter.

THE TEAMS.

Frankston: Dyson (capt.), Hanton, L. Legge, Quartermain, Cameron, Morris, J. Legge, Webster, A. Quartermain, W. Witheridge, Dalrymple, Bentley, Gamble, Martin, Williams, Claxton, Lloyd, Neeson.

Dromana: Nolan (capt.), Dyson, Birch, Singleton, Griffiths, Gray, Clydesdale, Skillen, Patterson, Evans, Farrel, Mirabella, Ruddick, Gleeson, W. Dyson, Langholtz, Wilson, Guy.

Umpire: Sinclair

THE PLAY.

Dromana had first use of the wind and opened with a strong attack which was broken by Hanton. Frankston launched three ineffective attacks which Gleeson, who was playing well, checked. Dromana then took charge of the play and a determined drive brought a sixer by Patterson, followed by three singles. Skillen took a good mark and again raised both flags. Frankston rallied and some good systematic play carried the ball well forward. A free to J. Legge brought Frankston's first point to which Dromana replied with a single by Patterson. Frankston worked forward against the wind and Webster secured. His shot struck the post. Morris sent to Lloyd to A. Quartermain for Frankston's first sixer. Dromana replied with two singles and a goal from a fine mark by Birch. D. Quartermain to Bentley to Williams was a nice piece of

The match report is also a valuable part of club history as it lists the names of the every player who represented Dromana in that important clash at the Frankston Oval that day. It is also interesting as the name 'McLear' was not listed with Dromana-and that is a story within itself.

As in any 'recipe', the proof of the pudding is in the eating; and it seemed as though Dromana had finally found a 'taste of winning' because in 1931 Dromana defeated Somerville by 61 points to win its first-ever pennant.

REFERENCE & RESEARCH INFORMATION:

Sources: AFL archives - DFNC Records –NLA- DFNC Handbook-Personal files.

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